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ADDRESS of the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY, united for the Purpose of obtaining Universal Suffrage and Annual Parliaments, to the various PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES of GREAT BRITAIN.

CITIZENS!

IT is with equal surprise and indignation that this Society have beheld the late rapid encroachments made by some of the constituted powers in this country upon the freedom of Britons—the attacks (hitherto unparelleled, since the *disastrous days of* CHARLES *the First*, and JAMES *the Second*) that have been successively made upon the constitutional and natural rights of the subject; the flagrant attempts on the *personal security of individuals*, by an infamous *inquisitorial system* of SPIES and INFORMERS, and *formal processes of* PERSECUTION FOR OPINION, and the unqualified attempt to *annihilate the intellectual progress of man* by the suppression of what has hitherto been held as our *birthright* and *peculiar prerogative*—the free and peaceable enquiry into the PRINCIPLES OF LEGISLATION, and the practices of the EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT.

CITIZENS!

We are well assured of your sympathy in the feelings which these alarming, and (since the REVOLUTION THAT PLACED THE PRESENT FAMILY UPON THE THRONE) unprecedented stretches of Prerogative have excited in our bosoms; and more especially in the *horror and execration* with which we cannot cease to contemplate *the conduct of certain* MAGISTRATES, particularly in the TOWN and COUNTY of EDINBURGH; where, *in direct* VIOLATION, *not only of the* GENERAL PRINCIPLES, *but of the* EXPLICIT *and* AVOWED MAXIMS *both of the* COMMON *and* STATUTE LAW *of the Country*, unprecedented *affronts*, and even PERSONAL VIOLENCE (to the scandal of FREEDOM and JUSTICE) have been exerted to interrupt and disperse a *legal, peaceable*, and *enlightened assembly* of PATRIOTS, whose constitutional exertions for *reforming the abuses of our* PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION, and *redressing thereby*, the GRIEVANCES *under which we labour*, demand, instead of *prosecutions, fines, imprisonments, and* TRANSPORTATION,

Civic Crowns from their Country, and the *Applauſes and Admiration of Mankind.*

CITIZENS!

Though we are of no *party*, and behold with perfect indifference, the ſtruggles and contentions of *intereſted factions*, we believe there can be, at this time, but one opinion (among *placemen*, *penſioners*, and *expectants* alone excepted) concerning the conduct and principles of the PRESENT ADMINISTRATION—An *Adminiſtration* which has not only advanced with unparalleled boldneſs in its repeated *attacks upon our* CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY; but has plunged alſo, in *hitherto unheard of* INFAMY, the *once* awful name of *Britain*—an *Adminiſtration* which, not content with *overwhelming* in WANT and MISERY the PEOPLE for whoſe proſperity it was their duty to provide, and *endangering the* CONSTITUTION which they pretended ſo ſervilely to adore, by *precipitating the nation into an* UNJUST and RUINOUS WAR, has conducted that war, *not upon the open and magnanimous principles* upon which this country had formerly uſed to pride itſelf, but upon a *new fangled* and extravagant ſyſtem of CORRUPTION and TREACHERY, and, by the *peculiar abſurdity*, as well as the *meanneſs* of its meaſures has brought a STAIN upon the NATIONAL CHARACTER of BRITAIN, which nothing but the *atteſted diſapprobation of the people* can obliterate from the memory of Europe—An *adminiſtration* which, not content with theſe *external ſtains* with which it has blotched the *once fair character of the country*, has introduced, alſo ACCUMULATED DISEASES and CORRUPTIONS *into its very vitals*—under the deceitful and inſinuating title of *Aſſociations for the protection of liberty and property*, has publickly patroniſed a new ſpecies of STAR CHAMBER INQUISITION (an inſtitution ſo juſtly execrated in the TYRANNICAL REIGNS *of the* Stewarts); —and has either flagitiouſly authoriſed or ſupinely ſuffered the inferior magiſtracy to trample on the ſacred boundaries meant to ſecure the liberties of the people, to exceed the conſtitutional limits of their authority, and to make the civil arm an engine of violence and depredation.

CITIZENS,

We wiſh to be candid in the midſt of all the cenſures which

injuſtice forces from our lips; and it is therefore that we make it a matter of doubt (it not having yet been proved) whether the illegal inſult we have received, and the deep wound that has been given to the yet remaining liberties of Britain, in the treatment of the ſeveral Delegates of the Britiſh Convention, whoſe perſons and papers have ſo unlawfully been ſeized and made the ſubjects of unprecedented proſecutions, were committed or not by the expreſs orders of his Majeſty's Miniſters. To us, however, it appears that a violation ſo open and flagitious of every natural and conſtitutional right, would not have been ventured upon by theſe inferior engines of authority, without the encouragement and aſſured protection of higher powers.

CITIZENS! it is neceſſary that theſe circumſtances ſhould be boldly and ſeverely inveſtigated—it is neceſſary for the promotion of this inveſtigation, that the Friends of Liberty ſhould act with unanimity and concert; and it is therefore that we thus, in a body, addreſs your reſpective Societies.

By what means ſhall this concert be effected? Though in Scotland all law and liberty have been violated to cruſh aſſociation and enquiry, remember that, if we have the *will*, we have yet the *power*, in this or any other part of *England* to aſſemble, by a ſtill more general delegation (and we recommend it to you to hold yourſelves in preparation for ſuch a meaſure, ſhould it be found neceſſary) to co-operate in the conſtitutional meaſures of our Committee of Convention yet aſſembled. Exigencies may ariſe in which we ought not to truſt to the ſlow, the precarious, and imperfect intercourſe of epiſtolary correſpondence; and the friends of liberty ought to be, and we truſt they are rather *animated* than *intimidated* by the oppoſition they have met with and the treatment of their glorious and enlightened champions.

But independent of the ſpecific *mode* of co-operation (upon which we anxiouſly expect your ſentiments) there is a particular meaſure, which, with your approbation and concurrence, we wiſh to adopt, namely, a *Remonſtrance* to each of the three branches of the Legiſlature againſt the dangerous innovations which prerogative and miniſterial artifice are making upon the *valuable parts* of our Laws and Conſtitution—the ſyſtem of ſpies and perſecutions—the uſurpations of inferior magiſtrates—— and particularly the alarming tranſactions of the police and

courts of law in Scotland, where all ſhadow of Liberty ſeems annihilated by the rod of power——that invincible ſpirit alone excepted that reigns in the hearts of a brave and enlightened people.

CITIZENS, we wiſh, in this remonſtrance, to demand an immediate enquiry into the nature of our conſtitutional rights; the inſtructions (if any) which the Judges and Magiſtrates have received, relative to their alarming conduct; the authority by which ſuch inſtructions (if real) have been given, and juſt and conſtitutional vengeance upon the heads of thoſe who ſhall be found to have been the real violators of ſuch laws as were meant for the protection of liberty, and the happineſs and proſperity of the people.

Such, Fellow Citizens, is the meaſure relative to which we call upon you for your immediate opinion. If in ſuch a meaſure you will co-operate with us, let us know, without delay, the propoſed means of your co-operation. Should any other appear more adviſable, we ſhall be happy to have your ſentiments without delay.

In the mean time we remain,
in all the zeal and ardour of the love of liberty,
Yours,
THE LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY.

Reſolved at a General Meeting of the ſaid Society, held on Monday the 20th of January, 1794, that a printed Copy of the above Letter be ſent, without Delay, to the Secretaries and Chairmen of the reſpective patriotic Societies in Great Britain and Ir land.

RESOLVED, that during the enſuing Seſſion of Parliament, the General Committee of this Society do meet daily, for the purpoſe of watching the proceedings of the Parliament, and of the Adminiſtration of the Government of this Country. And that upon the firſt introduction of any bill or motion inimical to the liberties of the people, ſuch as for LANDING FOREIGN TROOPS IN GREAT BRITAIN or IRELAND, for SUSPENDING THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT, for PROCLAIMING MARTIAL LAW, or for PREVENTING THE PEOPLE FROM MEETING IN SOCIETIES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION, or any OTHER INNOVATION of a ſimilar nature, that, on any of theſe emergencies, the General Committee ſhall iſſue ſummonſes to the Delegates of each diviſion, and alſo to the Secretaries of the different Societies affiliated and correſponding with this Society, forthwith to call a GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE PEOPLE, to be held at ſuch place, and in ſuch a manner as ſhall be ſpecified in the ſummons, for the purpoſe of taking ſuch meaſures into their conſideration.

J. MARTIN, Chairman.
T. HARDY, Secretary.

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